Federal Communications Commission

KMGW RADIO

WO RADIO



Boc.mm99-5

March 18, 1999

The Honorable William Kennard, Chairman **Federal Communications Commission** 445 12th Street, SW Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Kennard:

The purpose of this letter is to lend my concern to the low-power FM (microradio) issue and your resulting Notice of Proposed Rulemaking.

Based on the rule itself unless second and third channel interference protections are reduced, there can be no low-power FM station added in major markets, making it is apparent the FCC is neglecting and/or disregarding their obligation to protect current broadcast and other services in an interference-free environment. The only way these new stations can be added is to reduce the protection against interference, thus making the current FM band less listenable.

I would also like to express my concern about the transition to digital audio broadcasting, which is a part of this Proposed Rulemaking. Our plan is to add a digital signal on top of our analog signal within the same band and channel. A service which will offer much improved clarity and service to the public. By adding additional mico or low-power stations you are hindering the ability of the digital signals to reach listeners unimpeded by interference.

With AM and FM licenses available for application, I find it difficult to understand the feasibility of issuing low-power FM. Furthermore, how can licensing certain favored groups and the proposed ownership limits for low-power stations be reconciled with the Telecommunications Act of 1996 and/or the Balanced Budget of 1997?

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The people of Wyoming depend on local broadcasters for important local news, weather and emergency bulletins, public affairs and entertainment programming. By allowing new on-line, untested and technically infeasible radio service, you are simply putting the people's access to that programming at great risk. And, the only message you'll be giving is that your greatest concern is not for the them but placating pirate radio operators.

I appreciate your consideration and hope you reconsider your actions.

Sincerely.

Robert D. Price General Manager

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